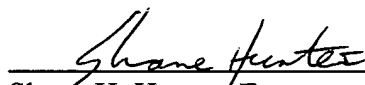


REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated January 22, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone conference on May 21, 2004. During that conference, Applicants believe that the Examiner agreed that claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 would be allowable, pending a possible further search, by including the limitations of claims 4, 9, 15, and 19, respectively, without including the limitations of intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 to include the limitations of claims 4, 9, 15, and 19, respectively, and have cancelled claims 4, 9, 15, and 19 without prejudice. Further, Applicants have amended allowable claims 5, 10, and 20 into independent form as suggested by the examiner. Applicants therefore believe that all the pending claims, namely 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, 16-18, and 20 are in allowable condition, and the respective rejections of these claims under 35 USC 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,436,896 (Anderson) and 35 USC 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,211 (Weller) are moot.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

  
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